II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

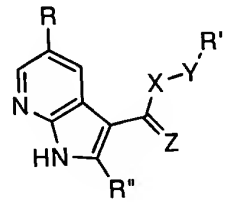
In the Claims

Please amend the following claims to conform to USPTO practice. No new matter is introduced with these amendments.

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I) ~~as defined below~~:



(I)

wherein:

R stands for carbocyclyl, substituted carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, or substituted heterocyclyl, wherein

the optionally substituted carbocyclyl or optionally substituted heterocyclyl group is optionally fused to an unsaturated, partially unsaturated or fully saturated five to seven membered ring containing zero to three heteroatoms,

each substitutable carbon atom in R, including the optional fused ring, is optionally and independently substituted by one or more of $C_{1\text{-}12}$ alkyl, carbocyclyl, or heterocyclyl, halogen, haloalkyl, OR^2, SR^2, NO_2, CN, NR^2R^2, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CONR^2R^2$, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CO_2R^2$, CO_2R^2, COR^2, $CONR^2R^2$, $S(O)_2R^2$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^2$, $SO_2NR^2R^2$, $NR^2S(O)_2R^2$, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined below and wherein:

the $C_{1\text{-}12}$ alkyl optionally incorporates one or two insertions selected from the group consisting of -O-, -C(O)-, -N(R^2)-, -S(O)- and –$S(O_2)$- wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined below;

the $C_{1\text{-}12}$ alkyl, carbocyclyl, or heterocyclyl group is optionally substituted by one or more of halogen, haloalkyl, OR^2, SR^2, NO_2, CN, NR^2R^2, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CONR^2R^2$, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CO_2R^2$, CO_2R^2, COR^2, $CONR^2R^2$, $S(O)_2R^2$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^2$, $SO_2NR^2R^2$, $NR^2S(O)_2R^2$; wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined below and

the carbocyclyl, or heterocyclyl group is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-12} alkyl,

each saturated carbon in the optional fused ring is further optionally and independently substituted by =O, =S, =NNHR^2, NNR^{2}R^2, =N-OR^2, =NNHCOR^2, =NNHCO$_2$R^2, =NNSO$_2$R^2, or =NR^2, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined below; and

each substitutable nitrogen atom in R is optionally substituted by R^3, COR^2, SO$_2$R^2 or CO$_2$R^2, wherein each R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different and is as defined below;

R^2 is hydrogen , C_{1-12} alkyl or aryl, optionally substituted by one or more of C_{1-4} alkyl, halogen, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, OR^4, SR^4, NO$_2$, CN, NR^{4}R^4, NR^{4}COR^4, NR^{4}CONR^{4}R^4, NR^{4}COR^4, NR^{4}CO$_2$R^4, CO$_2$R^4, COR^4, CONR$^4_2$, S(O)$_2$R^4, SONH$_2$, S(O)R^4, SO$_2$ NR^{4}R^4, NR^{4}S(O)$_2$R^4, wherein the C_{1-12} alkyl group optionally incorporates one or two insertions selected from the group consisting of -O-, -N(R^4)-, -S(O)- and –S(O$_2$)-, wherein each R^4 may be the same or different and is as defined below;

R^3 is C_{1-12} alkyl or aryl, optionally substituted by one or more of C_{1-4} alkyl, halogen, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, OR^4, SR^4, NO$_2$, CN, NR^{4}R^4, NR^{4}COR^4, NR^{4}CONR^{4}R^4, NR^{4}COR^4, NR^{4}CO$_2$R^4, CO$_2$R^4, COR^4, CONR$^4_2$, S(O)$_2$R^4, SONH$_2$, S(O)R^4, SO$_2$ NR^{4}R^4, NR^{4}S(O)$_2$R^4, wherein the C_{1-12} alkyl group optionally incorporates one or two insertions selected from the group consisting of -O-, -N(R^4)-, -S(O)- and –S(O$_2$)-, wherein each R^4 may be the same or different and is as defined below;

R^4 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, or C_{1-4} haloalkyl;

R' is C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl, each of which is optionally substituted, wherein:

the optionally substituted carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl group is optionally fused to one to three unsaturated, partially unsaturated or fully saturated five to seven membered rings containing zero to three heteroatoms,

each substitutable carbon atom in R', including the optional fused ring, is optionally and independently substituted by one or more of C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, C_{3-12} heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl halogen, haloalkyl, OR^2, SR^2, NO$_2$, CN, NR^{2}R^2, NR^{2}COR^2, NR^{2}CONR^{2}R^2, NR^{2}COR^2, NR^{2}CO$_2$R^2, CO$_2$R^2,

COR^2, $CONR^2R^2$, $S(O)_2R^2$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^2$, SO_2 NR^2R^2, $NR^2S(O)_2R^2$, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined above and wherein:

the C_{1-12} alkyl group optionally incorporates one or two insertions selected from the group consisting of -O-, -C(O)-, -$N(R^2)$-, -S(O)- and –$S(O_2)$-, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined above;

the C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, C_{3-12} heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by one or more of halogen, haloalkyl, OR^2, SR^2, NO_2, CN, NR^2R^2, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CONR^2R^2$, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CO_2R^2$, CO_2R^2, COR^2, $CONR^2R^2$, $S(O)_2R^2$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^2$, $SO_2NR^2R^2$, $NR^2S(O)_2R^2$, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined above; and

the C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, C_{3-12} heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-12} alkyl groups;

each saturated carbon in R', including the optional fused ring, is further optionally and independently substituted by =O, =S, NNR^2R^2, =N-OR^2, =$NNHCOR^2$, =$NNHCO_2R^2$, =$NNSO_2R^2$, or =NR^2, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined above; and

each substitutable nitrogen atom in R' is optionally substituted by R^3, COR^2, SO_2R^2 or CO_2R^2 wherein each R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different and is as defined above;

R" is hydrogen, C_{1-12} alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl, each of which is optionally substituted, wherein:

the said carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl is optionally fused to one to three unsaturated, partially unsaturated or fully saturated five to seven membered ring containing zero to three heteroatoms,

each substitutable carbon atom in R'', including the optional fused ring, is optionally and independently substituted by one or more of C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, C_{3-12} heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, haloalkyl, OR^2, SR^2, NO_2, CN, NR^2R^2, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CONR^2R^2$, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CO_2R^2$, CO_2R^2,

COR^2, $CONR^2R^2$, $S(O)_2R^2$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^2$, SO_2 NR^2R^2, $NR^2S(O)_2R^2$, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined below and wherein:

the C_{1-12} alkyl group optionally incorporate one or two insertions selected from the group consisting of -O-, -C(O)-, -N(R^2)-, -S(O)- and –S(O_2)-;

the C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, C_{3-12} heterocycloalkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by one or more of halogen, haloalkyl, unsaturated or partly saturated cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl, OR^2, SR^2, NO_2, CN, NR^2R^2, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CONR^2R^2$, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CO_2R^2$, CO_2R^2, COR^2, $CONR^2R^2$, $S(O)_2R^2$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^2$, SO_2 NR^2R^2, $NR^2S(O)_2R^2$, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined above; and

the C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, C_{3-12} heterocycloalkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl groups, are optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-12} alkyl

each saturated carbon in R'', including the optional fused ring, is further optionally and independently substituted by =O, =S, NNR^2R^2, =N-OR^2, =NNHCOR^2, =NNHCO_2R^2, =NNSO_2R^2, or =NR^2, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined above; and

each substitutable nitrogen atom in R'' is optionally substituted by R^3, COR^2, SO_2 R^2 or CO_2 R^2, wherein each R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different and is as defined above;

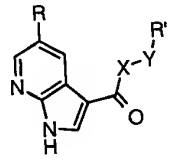
X is NR^5; O, S or C_{1-4} alkylene that is optionally substituted by one or more of halogen, haloalkyl, OR^2, SR^2, NO_2, CN, NR^2R^2, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CONR^2R^2$, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CO_2R^2$, CO_2R^2, COR^2, $CONR^2R^2$, $S(O)_2R^2$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^2$, $SO_2NR^2R^2$, $NR^2S(O)_2R^2$, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined above and R^5 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl or C_{1-4} haloalkyl; and

Y is absent or is NR^6, O, CR^6R^6, or C_{1-4} alkylene wherein each R^6 may be the same or different and is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy or C_{1-4} haloalkyl; and

Z is O, S or NR^7 wherein each R^7 may be the same or different and is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with one or more of halide, OR^8, NR^8R^8 or aryl, where each R^8 may be the same or different and stand for H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl or C_{1-4} haloalkoxy;

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, and other pharmaceutically acceptable biohydrolyzable derivatives thereof~~, including~~ selected from the group comprising esters, amides, carbamates, carbonates, ureides, solvates, hydrates, affinity reagents ~~or~~ and prodrugs thereof.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, having the formula (Ia);



(Ia)

wherein

R stands for carbocyclyl, substituted carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, or substituted heterocyclyl, wherein

the optionally substituted carbocyclyl or optionally substituted heterocyclyl group is optionally fused to an unsaturated, partially unsaturated or fully saturated five to seven membered ring containing zero to three heteroatoms,

each substitutable carbon atom in R, including the optional fused ring, is optionally and independently substituted by one or more of C_{1-12} alkyl, carbocyclyl, or heterocyclyl, halogen, haloalkyl, OR^2, SR^2, NO_2, CN, NR^2R^2, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CONR^2R^2$, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CO_2R^2$, CO_2R^2, COR^2, $CONR^2R^2$, $S(O)_2R^2$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^2$, $SO_2NR^2R^2$, $NR^2S(O)_2R^2$, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined below and wherein:

the C_{1-12} alkyl optionally incorporates one or two insertions selected from the group consisting of -O-, -C(O)-, $-N(R^2)-$, -S(O)- and $-S(O_2)-$ wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined below;

the C_{1-12} alkyl, carbocyclyl, or heterocyclyl group is optionally substituted by one or more of halogen, haloalkyl, OR^2, SR^2, NO_2, CN, NR^2R^2, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CONR^2R^2$, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CO_2R^2$, CO_2R^2, COR^2, $CONR^2R^2$, $S(O)_2R^2$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^2$, $SO_2NR^2R^2$, $NR^2S(O)_2R^2$; wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined below and

the carbocyclyl, or heterocyclyl group is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-12} alkyl,

each saturated carbon in the optional fused ring is further optionally and independently substituted by =O, =S, $=NNHR^2$, NNR^2R^2, $=N\text{-}OR^2$, $=NNHCOR^2$, $=NNHCO_2R^2$, $=NNSO_2R^2$, or $=NR^2$, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined below; and

each substitutable nitrogen atom in R is optionally substituted by R^3, COR^2, SO_2R^2 or CO_2R^2, wherein each R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different and is as defined below;

R^2 is hydrogen , C_{1-12} alkyl or aryl, optionally substituted by one or more of C_{1-4} alkyl, halogen, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, OR^4, SR^4, NO_2, CN, NR^4R^4, NR^4COR^4, $NR^4CONR^4R^4$, NR^4COR^4, $NR^4CO_2R^4$, CO_2R^4, COR^4, $CONR^4{}_2$, $S(O)_2R^4$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^4$, SO_2 NR^4R^4, $NR^4S(O)_2R^4$, wherein the C_{1-12} alkyl group optionally incorporates one or two insertions selected from the group consisting of -O-, $-N(R^4)-$, -S(O)- and $-S(O_2)-$, wherein each R^4 may be the same or different and is as defined below;

R^3 is C_{1-12} alkyl or aryl, optionally substituted by one or more of C_{1-4} alkyl, halogen, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, OR^4, SR^4, NO_2, CN, NR^4R^4, NR^4COR^4, $NR^4CONR^4R^4$, NR^4COR^4, $NR^4CO_2R^4$, CO_2R^4, COR^4, $CONR^4{}_2$, $S(O)_2R^4$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^4$, SO_2 NR^4R^4, $NR^4S(O)_2R^4$, wherein the C_{1-12} alkyl group optionally incorporates one or two insertions selected from the group consisting of -O-, $-N(R^4)-$, -S(O)- and $-S(O_2)-$, wherein each R^4 may be the same or different and is as defined below;

R^4 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, or C_{1-4} haloalkyl;

R' is C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl, each of which is optionally substituted, wherein:

the optionally substituted carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl group is optionally fused to one to three unsaturated, partially unsaturated or fully saturated five to seven membered rings containing zero to three heteroatoms,

each substitutable carbon atom in R', including the optional fused ring, is optionally and independently substituted by one or more of C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, C_{3-12} heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl halogen, haloalkyl, OR^2, SR^2, NO_2, CN, NR^2R^2, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CONR^2R^2$, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CO_2R^2$, CO_2R^2, COR^2, $CONR^2R^2$, $S(O)_2R^2$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^2$, SO_2 NR^2R^2, $NR^2S(O)_2R^2$, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined above and wherein:

the C_{1-12} alkyl group optionally incorporates one or two insertions selected from the group consisting of -O-, -C(O)-, -N(R^2)-, -S(O)- and –S(O_2)-, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined above;

the C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, C_{3-12} heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by one or more of halogen, haloalkyl, OR^2, SR^2, NO_2, CN, NR^2R^2, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CONR^2R^2$, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CO_2R^2$, CO_2R^2, COR^2, $CONR^2R^2$, $S(O)_2R^2$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^2$, $SO_2NR^2R^2$, $NR^2S(O)_2R^2$, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined above; and

the C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, C_{3-12} heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-12} alkyl groups;

each saturated carbon in R', including the optional fused ring, is further optionally and independently substituted by =O, =S, NNR^2R^2, =N-OR^2, =NNHCOR^2, =NNHCO_2R^2, =NNSO_2R^2, or =NR^2, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined above; and

each substitutable nitrogen atom in R' is optionally substituted by R^3, COR^2, SO_2R^2 or CO_2R^2 wherein each R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different and is as defined above;

X is NR^5; O, S or C_{1-4} alkylene that is optionally substituted by one or more of halogen, haloalkyl, OR^2, SR^2, NO_2, CN, NR^2R^2, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CONR^2R^2$, NR^2COR^2, $NR^2CO_2R^2$, CO_2R^2, COR^2, $CONR^2R^2$, $S(O)_2R^2$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R^2$, $SO_2NR^2R^2$,

$NR^2S(O)_2R^2$, wherein each R^2 may be the same or different and is as defined above and R^5 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl or C_{1-4} haloalkyl; and

Y is absent or is NR^6, O, CR^6R^6, or C_{1-4} alkylene wherein each R^6 may be the same or different and is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy or C_{1-4} haloalkyl.

3. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein R is an aryl or heteroaryl radical, optionally substituted with one or more of alkyl, haloalkyl, halogen, OR^9, SR^8, SOR^9, $N(R^9)_2$, wherein each R^9 may be the same or different and stand for hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or haloalkyl.

4. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein R is an optionally substituted aryl, selected from group ~~causing of preferably~~ consisting of phenyl or napthyl.

5. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 4, wherein R is phenyl substituted in the 3-(meta) position.

6. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~, wherein R is substituted aryl and the substituent is F, Cl, ~~or~~ Br, ~~preferably F; or~~ haloalkyl, ~~preferably CF_3;~~ or alkyl~~, preferably methyl, ethyl or propyl~~.

7. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein R' is C_{1-4} alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl.

8. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 7, wherein Y stands for an alkylene group.

9. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein R' stands for aryl, ~~preferably phenyl,~~ or a heteroaryl containing up to 3 hetero atoms, or a cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl group, each of which may be fused to one or more aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl rings, each optionally substituted by one or more of alkyl, halide alkyl haloalkyl, alkoxy or haloalkoxy.

10. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any one of claim 1 or claims 3 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein R'' is H, C_{1-4} alkyl ~~(e.g. methyl, ethyl or propyl)~~, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl.

11. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein X is NR^5, most preferably NH, or a straight chain or branched C_{1-4} alkylene~~, e.g. methylene or ethylene~~.

12. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, wherein Y is either absent or a straight of branched chain C_{1-4}~~, e.g. methylene or methylmethylene~~.

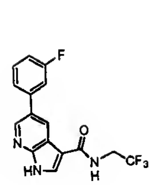
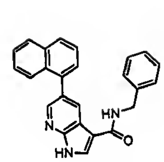
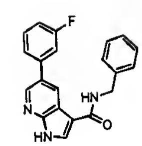
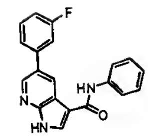
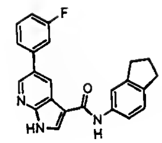
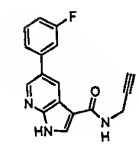
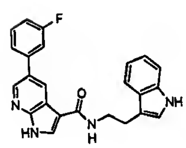
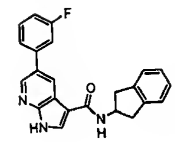
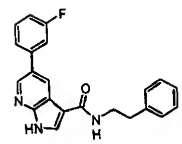
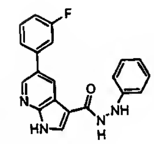
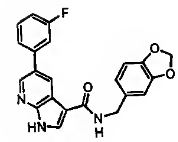
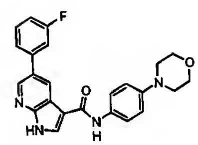
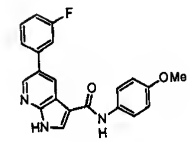
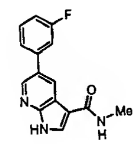
13. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, wherein Y is NR^6~~, e.g. NH, wherein R^6 is as defined in claim 1~~.

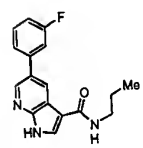
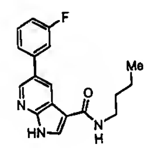
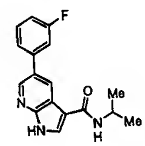
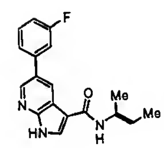
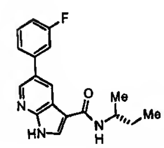
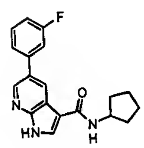
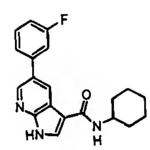
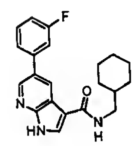
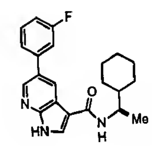
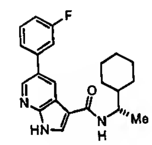
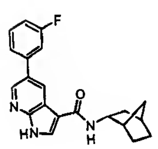
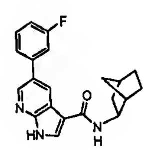
14. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 13, wherein X stands for NR^5 wherein R^5 is as defined in claim 1.

15. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 or 3 to 14~~ claim 1, wherein Z is

O.

16. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 selected from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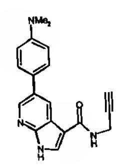
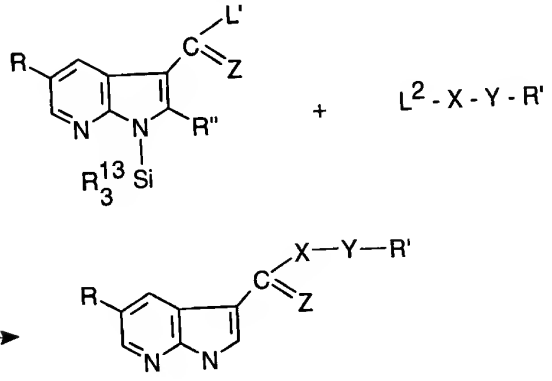


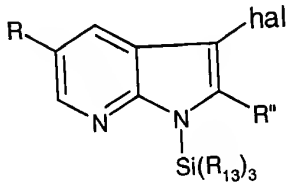
17. (Currently amended) A prodrug of a compound as defined in ~~any of claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1.

18. (Currently amended) A process for the manufacture of a compound of claim 1~~any one or more of the compounds of any one of claims 1 to 16~~ which comprises condensing a compound of the general formula (II) with the compound of the general formula (III):



in which R, R', R'' X and Y are as defined above~~in any one of claims 1 to 16~~, Z is O, R^{13} stands for C_{1-6} straight or branched alkyl and L^1 and L^2 stand for radicals that together form a condensation product, e.g. H and OH, to form the compound of the general formula (I) or (Ia) as defined in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 above ~~to 16~~, in which Z stands for oxygen.

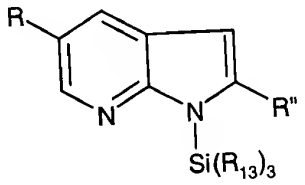
19. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 18, wherein the compound of the general formula (II) (in which Z stands for O and L^1 stands for OH) is formed by reacting a compound of the general formula (VIII)



(VIII)

in which R_{13}, R and R'' are as defined in claim 18 and hal stands for a halogen atom, ~~preferably bromine~~, with an alkali metal alkyl~~, e.g. an alkyl lithium such as tertiary-butyl lithium,~~ and then reacting the product so obtained with CO_2.

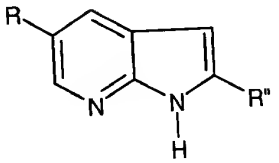
20. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the compound of the general formula (VIII) is formed by halogenating ~~(preferably with bromine)~~ the compound of the formula (VII) in the 3 position



(VII)

in which R_{13}, R and R'' are as defined in claim 18.

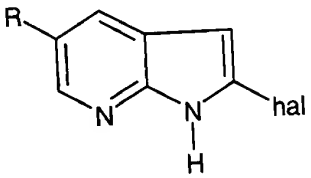
21. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the compound of the general formula (VII) is formed by reacting a compound of the general formula (VI)



(VI)

in which R and R'' are as defined in claim 18, with an alkali metal alkyl~~, e.g. an alkyl lithium such as normal or tertiary butyl lithium,~~ followed by reacting the product so obtained with $R^{13}{}_3$Si-hal, in which R_{13}, is as defined in claim 18 and hal stands for a halogen atom.

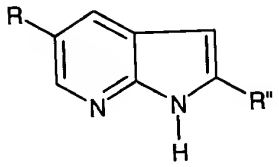
22. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 20 ~~or 21~~, wherein the compound of the general formula (VI), in which R'' stands for hydrogen, is formed by hydrogenating a compound of the general formula (V):



(V)

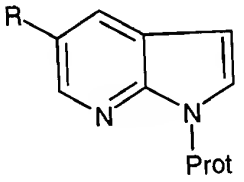
in which R is as defined in claim 18 and hal stands for a halogen atom~~, e.g. using hydrogen and a catalyst such as Pd-C~~.

23. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the compound of the general formula (VI), in which R'' is as defined in claim 18 except that it does not stand for hydrogen, is formed by protecting the compound of the general formula (VI),



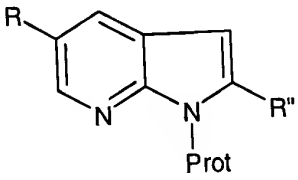
(VI)

in which R'' stands for hydrogen, in the 1 position with a suitable protecting group ~~radical, e.g. with an arylsulphonyl group, such as a phenylsulphonyl group,~~ to form a compound of the general formula (IX)



(IX)

in which R is as defined in claim 18 and prot stands for the protecting group, and treating the compound of the general formula (IX) with an alkali metal alkyl~~, e.g. an alkyl lithium,~~ and then with a compound R''-hal (where hal stands for a halogen~~, preferably iodine,~~ and R'' is as defined in claim 18 except that it does not stand for hydrogen) to form the compound of the general formula (X)

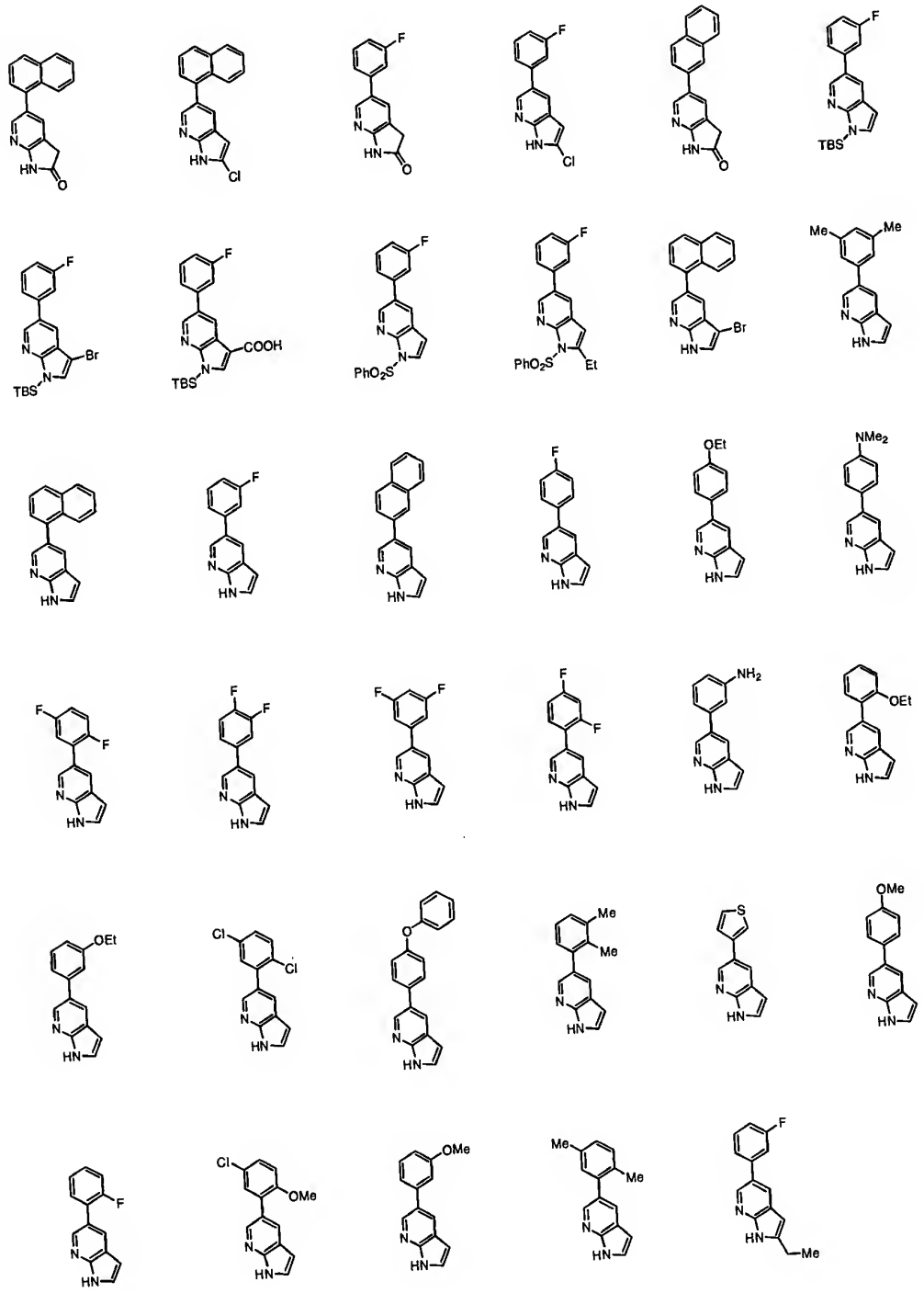


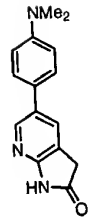
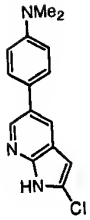
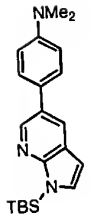
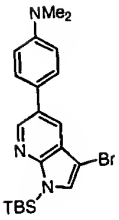
(X)

in which R and R'' are is as defined in claim 18 except that R'' does not stand for hydrogen and in which prot stands for the protecting group, and removing the protecting group~~, e.g.~~

~~phenylsulphonyl,~~ to form a compound of the general formula (VI) in which R and R'' are ~~is~~ as defined in claim 18 except that R'' does not stand for hydrogen.

24. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 22 or 23, wherein the compound of the general formula (VI) is selected from:

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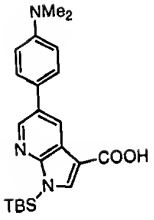
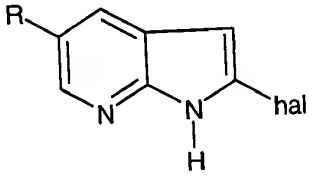
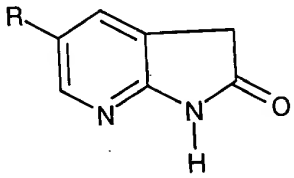


25. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in any one of claims 22 and 23~~to 24~~, wherein the compound of the general formula (VI), in which R'' stands for hydrogen, is formed by hydrogenating a compound of the general formula (V),


(V)

in which R is as defined in claim 18 and hal stands for a halogen atom, e.g. using hydrogen and a catalyst such as Pd-C.

26. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 25, wherein the compound of the general formula (V) is formed by halogenating a compound of the general formula (IV) in the 2 position,


(IV)

in which R is as defined in claim 18.

27. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~any one of claims 18 to 26~~ claim 18, which includes the further step of converting the compound of the general formula (I) in which Z stands for O into a compound of the general formula (I) in which Z stands for S or NR^7.

28. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined in ~~any of claims 1-16~~ claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

29. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 28 further comprising one or more other active agent.

30. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 29 wherein the composition further comprises an anti-inflammatory agent~~, for example a p38 inhibitor~~.

31. (Currently amended) A process for the manufacture of a composition as defined in ~~any of claims 28-30~~ claim 28, comprising combining a compound as defined in ~~any of claims 1-16~~claim 1, and any additional active agent, with the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

32. (Currently amended) A compound as defined in ~~any of claims 1-16~~ claim 1, or a composition as defined in ~~any of claims 28-30~~claim 28, for us in therapy.

33. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting JNK the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a pharmaceutical formulation comprising the formulation of claim 28 ~~A compound as defined in any of claims 1-16, or a composition as defined in any of claims 28-30, for inhibiting JNK.~~

34. (Currently amended) ~~A compound as defined in any of claims 1-16, or a composition as defined in any of claims 28-30, for selectively inhibiting~~ The method of claim 33, wherein JNK is JNK3.

35. (Currently amended) ~~A compound as defined in any of claims 1-16, or a composition as defined in any of claims 28-30~~, A method for ~~use in~~ the prevention or treatment of JNK-

mediated disorder, the method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof the pharmaceutical formulation of claim 28.

36. (Currently amended) ~~A compound or a composition as claimed in~~ The method of claim 35, wherein the disorder is a neurodegenerative disorder ~~(including dementia)~~, an inflammatory disease, a disorder linked to apoptosis, ~~particularly~~ neuronal apoptosis, an autoimmune disease, destructive bone disorder, proliferative disorder, cancer, infectious disease, allergy, ischemia reperfusion injury, heart attack, angiogenic disorder, organ hypoxia, vascular hyperplasia, cardiac hypertrophy, thrombin induced platelet aggregation and/or ~~anya~~ condition associated with prostaglandin endoperoxidase synthase-2.

37. (Currently amended) ~~A compound or a composition as claimed in~~ The method of claim 36, wherein the neurodegenerative disorder ~~results from~~is linked to apoptosis and/or is an inflammatory disease ~~inflammation~~.

38. (Currently amended) ~~A compound or composition as claimed in~~ The method of claim 36 ~~or claim 37~~, wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is: dementia; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis; Huntington's disease; senile chorea; Sydenham's chorea; hypoglycemia; head and spinal cord trauma, ~~including~~ traumatic head injury; acute pain;~~and~~ chronic pain; epilepsy, ~~and~~ seizures; olivopontocerebellar dementia; neuoronal cell death; hypoxia-related neurodegeneration; acute hypoxia; glutamate toxicity, ~~including~~ glutamate neurotoxicity; cerebral ischemia; dementia linked to meningitis and/or dementia linked to neurosis; cerebrovascular dementia; or dementia in an HIV-infected patient

39. (Currently amended) ~~A compound or a composition as claimed in~~ The method of claim 36 ~~or 37~~, wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is a peripheral neuropathy, ~~including~~ mononeuropathy, multiple mononeuropathy, ~~or~~ polyneuropathy, ~~such as may be found in~~ ~~diabetes mellitus,~~ Lyme disease, ~~or~~ uremia; peripheral neuropathy caused by a toxic agent; a demyelinating disease ~~such as acute or chronic inflammatory polyneuropathy, leukodystrophies or Guillain-Barré syndrome~~; multiple mononeuropathy secondary to a collagen vascular disorder ~~(e.g. polyarteritis nodosa, SLE, Sjögren's syndrome)~~; multiple mononeuropathy secondary to

sarcoidosis; multiple mononeuropathy secondary to a metabolic disease ~~(e.g. diabetes or amyloidosis)~~; or multiple mononeuropathy secondary to an infectious disease ~~(e.g. Lyme disease or HIV infection)~~.

40. (Currently amended) ~~A compound or a composition as claimed in~~ The method of claim 36, wherein the disorder is inflammatory bowel disorder; bronchitis; asthma; acute pancreatitis; chronic pancreatitis; allergies of various types; Alzheimer's disease; autoimmune disease; ~~such as rheumatoid arthritis,~~systemic lupus; erythematosus; glumerulonephritis; scleroderma; chronic thyroiditis; Graves's disease; autoimmune gastritis; diabetes; autoimmune haemolytis anaemia; autoimmune neutropaenia; thrombocytopenia; atopic dermatitis; chronic active hepatitis; myasthenia gravis; multiple sclerosis; ulcerative colitis; Crohn's disease; psoriasis; or graft vs host disease.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~as claimed in any of claims 41-47~~ of claim 38, wherein one or more other active agent is administered to the individual simultaneously, subsequently or sequentially to administering the compound.

49. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 48, wherein the other active agent is an anti-inflammatory agent. ~~such as a p38 inhibitor.~~

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently amended) An assay for determining the activity of the compounds as defined in ~~any of claims 1-16~~claim 1, comprising providing a system for assaying the activity and assaying the activity of a compound as defined in ~~any of claims 1-16~~claim 1.

59. (Currently amended) An assay as claimed in claim 58, wherein the assay is for the JNK inhibiting activity of the compound. ~~preferably for the JNK3 specific inhibiting activity of the compound.~~

60. (Currently amended) An assay as claimed in claim 58 ~~or 59~~, wherein the assay is a Scintillation Proximity Assay (SPA). ~~using radiolabelled ATP, or is ELISA.~~

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 61, which is performed in a research model.

63. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 62, wherein the research model is an animal model.

64. (New) A compound as claimed in claim 6, wherein an R is F- substituted aryl.

65. (New) A compound as claimed in claim 6, wherein the haloalkyl is CF_3.

66. (New) A compound as claimed in claim 6, wherein alkyl is methyl, ethyl or propyl.